

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

June 30, 2005

Contact: Kevin Fortney, Washington State Patrol Crime Lab 509-625-5401
George Johnston, Washington State Patrol Crime Lab 206-262-6020

Spokane Crime Lab Dedication Ceremony

On June 28, Governor Christine Gregoire, joined Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste, Eastern Washington University Interim Provost Dr. Ron Dalla and State Toxicologist and Crime Lab Director Dr. Barry Logan in the dedication of the new Washington State Patrol Spokane Crime Lab. The lab new state-of-the-art laboratory of 32,000 square feet, located on the campus of Eastern Washington University in Cheney, was dedicated Tuesday morning and is expecting to house up to 30 forensic scientists when fully staffed.

The scientists at this site will provide services in drug analysis, methamphetamine lab analysis, DNA, microanalysis, firearms, and crime scene response for all of Eastern Washington. With the larger, more efficient space, the laboratory will be able to provide training and put on workshops for the law enforcement and the criminal justice community.

“These scientists play a vital role in the criminal justice system,” said Chief John R. Batiste. “This facility greatly enhances our ability to serve the citizens of Eastern Washington, to serve our law enforcement partners better and to provide expert analysis to assist victims and their families with the answers they need to move on with their lives.”

Eastern Washington University provides the only chemistry based forensic science degree emphasis in the state of Washington. This new crime lab will make Eastern the only university in the nation with a state crime lab on campus.

“We aim to prepare students with the foundation chemistry, critical thinking and communication skills necessary to make contributions to the lab through internships, research projects and hopefully as future employee candidates,” said Dr. Ron Dalla, Provost of EWU. “Eastern Washington University is dedicated to being strong stewards to the Washington State Patrol.”

In addition to the laboratory, the Washington State Arts Commission was represented by “Polarities”, an interactive sculpture consisting of a black and white granite table with movable cast bronze game pieces, to represent both the good and bad aspects of human behavior. The art, located in the courtyard of the lab, is part of the Washington State Art Collection.

Anyone interested in taking a tour of the new facility should contact Kevin Fortney, (509) 625-5401, Washington State Patrol Spokane Crime Lab to schedule a walk through.

###